PRATT UBLICATIONS

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"HOW TO CLEAN UP DIRTY PICTURES"
By
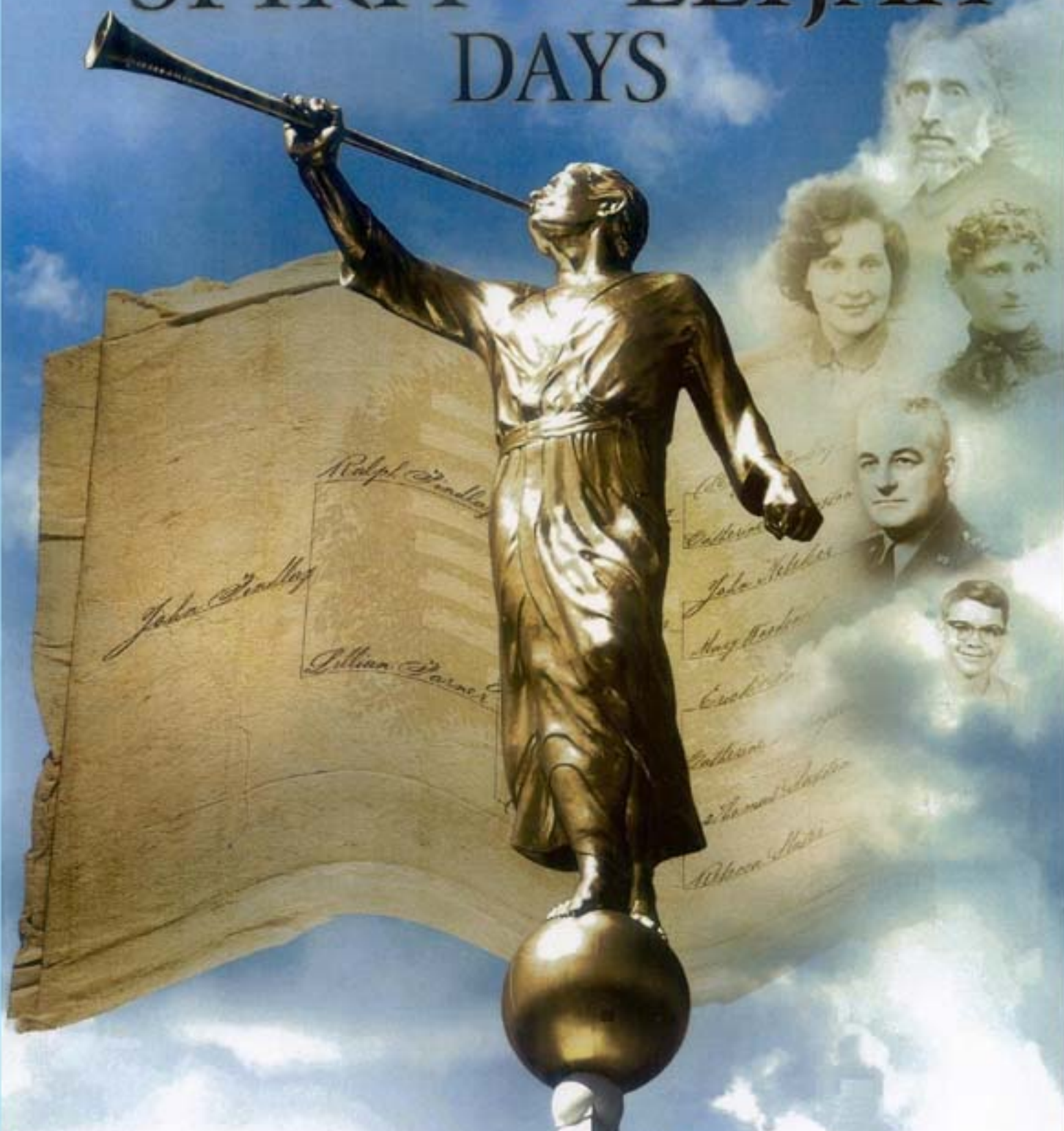### Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

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M.A.G.I. Course #8 To acquaint the researcher with the process of cleaning up pictures and/or documents whether under the Joint Photographic Experts Group commonly known as a JPEG **.jpeg** format or the Device Independent Bitmap (DIB) file format known as the BITMAP **.bmp** formula. This chapter will introduce you to various techniques used to remove dirt, tears, creases, dents, discolorations and add captions returning the document as close as you can to its original creation.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

SPIRIT OF ELIJAH DAYS

"BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD: AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEART OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THEIR FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. MALACHI 4:5-6

Objective

To acquaint the researcher with the process of cleaning up pictures and/or documents whether under the Joint Photographic Experts Group commonly known as a JPEG **.jpeg** format or the Device Independent Bitmap (DIB) file format known as the BITMAP **.bmp** formula.

Pictures of people, places or documents have…depending on the resolution, a small to excessive amount of dirt acquired by the copying process. This dirt can manifest itself as particles of dust, blips, lines, erroneous markings, tears, creases, dents and discolorations usually spoiling or defacing the picture, document or drawing.

This chapter will introduce you to various techniques used to remove these annoying distractions returning the document as close as possible to its original creation.

In addition, this course addresses the caption issue and instructs the researcher on how to add captions to the picture for identification purposes. Only by adding captions, can we identify the participants in a picture thereby preserving our family heirlooms and treasures for other interested family members.

The Problem…

If you are like most people…you have inherited, obtained, acquired, personally taken or copied pictures, documents and other important papers in your family history collections.

These articles have been processed on photo equipment; copy machines, or could be hand written documents. When you observe your copy, either due to the copying process or by using a copy machine with a low-resolution factor, sometimes…most always there are dirty lines, dots, characters and other artifacts incorporated into your document.

This chapter is going to teach you how to remove these unwanted hitchhikers and return your document to the pristine condition you desire.

Types of formats…

If you received these articles through a digital process, like Walgreen's photo discs, or from your own digital camera, these pictures are usually saved in the .jpeg format.

This means that every picture is usually named with a sequential number, always followed by **.jpeg** after the name or number of the item. The .jpeg is called the extension of the picture, file or document.

If the picture is of the bitmap format, the extension is a **.bmp**.

Regardless, of the extension, these pictures need to be cleaned up before you post them or send them to family and friends.

SCANNING…

If you scan your own documents, then the scanning program gives you an option of saving the picture as a .jpeg or a .bmp.

The .jpeg format compresses the object into smaller bytes and thereby saving space on your computer. This is the preferred format for posting on the web, because it saves space.

However, the .jpeg though adequate, is not the best format for printing. If you are going to produce a hard copy on paper then the .bmp will offer more resolution giving you a better picture, but using more ink and more space.

If you have a printing program, these programs automatically will print your document in color or back and white…flaws and all.

It is heart breaking to find an old family picture and see flaws and worn corners and other damage to the picture and not know how to have it repaired.

DOCUMENTS…

The definition of documents, for the sake of this chapter, are any reproduced copies on paper of marriages, deeds, death certificates or any other record that you wish to keep and preserve.

The first step in the restoration process…is to scan the document into a .jpeg format. You can do this, on your scanner, which can be purchased as a stand-alone or as part of an attachment to your printer system.

If you do not own a scanner, then take your document to Office Depot, Staples, Kinko's or one of the other, I even think Wal-Mart can do this for you. For a nominal fee, they will scan your document or picture and put it on a thumb, flash drive or cd.

It is best to have them convert a bunch of pictures for the cd.

EXAMINING YOUR DOCUMENT…

Take a look at your document on the computer. Do you see unwanted dots, lines, black marks or other erroneous information? If so, then this chapter is for you.

THE REPAIR PROCESS…

Once you have your document scanned, Microsoft Windows offers a free program called Paint.

This program is located in the Start menu, under All programs, under Accessories…Paint.

Open Paint and you notice a set of toolbars across the top and down the left side.

First of all, go to the upper left corner in the File section and scroll down to where it says open. Open the document you wish to repair.

After you have found it on your computer and it opens in Paint, then go back to File and scroll down to "save as"…and name your document or picture with a "new" name.

It could be the same name with something after the name such as…rep for repair. **But, do not save it as the original name otherwise it will erase the original document.**

Now that you have Paint opened and your "new" saved document you are ready to work.

EXAMPLE…

The following document on the next page was given to me back in the early 1980's. It concerns a copy of a copy of a transcribed record of the Family Bible of William & Sarah "Sally" (**STOCKTON**) Johnson.

All these years, I have kept this document in their family file and finally scanned the document into the computer.

I have almost completed the Cradle to Grave (C2G) Profiles for all of their children and wanted to post this document on ancestry.com for future generations.

Notice the black marks, smudges, erroneous lines, and all types of distracting debris on the document.

I could post it, as is, but it is in my capacity to offer better work for future generations.

Having acquired this skill over the years, I felt that many of you might appreciate a step-by-step learning process in removing these unwanted characters.

It is my desire to pass along this knowledge to you, so you may "fix" your documents, *i.e.*, whether pictures of family or any other object needing repair.

MRS. ETHAN DUNN
14257 Piedmont
Detroit, Michigan 48223

FAMILY BIBLE OF WILLIAM JOHNSON & SARAH STOCKTON

MARRIAGES

William Johnson and Sarah Stockton were married Decr. 8th 1836.

Benjamin Johnson and Jennie Barrett were married Feb.14th, 1865.

John B. Armstrong and Arthusa Johnson were married July 1869.

Milas C. Steele and Mary J. Johnson were married Oct. 4th. 1871.

Leroy (?) Johnson and Jinnie C. Belle were married Oct. 29, 1871.

James E. Lawrence and Jerusha Johnson were married Oct. 15th 1874.

John N. Johnson and Cornelia A. Dyson were married Sep. 3rd, 1884.

BIRTHS

The Birth of William Johnson and his wife and Children

William Johnson was Born Febiuery the 16th 1803

Sarah Johnson his wife was Born March the 7th 1816

Amelia Ann Johnson Born October the 15th 1837

Joseph Wilson Johnson April the 9th 1839

Benjamin Johnson December the 17th 1840

Francis Lee Roy Johnson December the 13th 1842

Mary Jane Johnson November the 6th 1846

Arthusa Johnson Febiuery the 22th 1850

John N. Johnson was born Janury the 5th 1852

Jerusha Johnson was born Decr. the 14th 1853

Sarah Frances Johnson born May 7th 1857

Margaret Johnson born May 27th 1860

William Edwin Johnson born Septr 13th 1861

DEATHS

Col 1

Benjamin Johnson died Febry 18th 1852.

Thomas H. Johnson died March 23rd 1853.
Townsend Johnson died Octr 8th 1856.
Frances Ann Campbell died July 16th 1857.

Martin Johnson died Septr 27th 1859.

Amelia Johnson died Novr 1st 1859.

Margaret Johnson died June 23rd 1860

Sarah Johnson died January 28th 1862

Alphonso Johnson died March 24th 1862.

John Caldwell died April 1st 1862.

Col 2-   Jane Johnson died July 10th 1862.

William Edwin Johnson died Octr 7th 1862

William Johnson died Feb 26th, 1874.
Aged 71 yrs.

Benjamin Johnson died Oct 21st, 1880
Aged 39 yrs & 10 months.

Wilson Johnson died Oct 12th, 1882. Aged 74.

Francis Leroy Johnson died in April 1888
Age 46 yrs.

Amelia Ann Johnson died in March 1900
Age 63 yrs.

Sara Frances Johnson died Mar. 18, 1900
Age 43 yrs.

Mary Jane Johnson died Apr. 1900 Age 53 yrs 6 mo.

Jerusha Brown died Nov 24 - 1910 Age 57 yr's

Arthusa Johnson died Mar 18, 1923 - Age 73

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> Attempt was made to copy original script as accurately as possible. All script very legible, except for photocopy blurring. Entries evidently made by several persons. Last 7 deaths seem to be in hand of Cousin Dora Armstrong born 1871, daughter of Arthusa. Of interest is that each writer added period to each marriage and death entry but not to birth entries.   NSD

76   This record typed by Norine Steele Dunn, granddaughter of Milas C. Steele & Mary Jane Johnson. 1976-This Bible in possession of Mrs. Paul (Thelma Mealer) Jones, Washington, Mo. She a granddaughter of above Benjamin Johnson & Jennie Barrett who married Feb. 4th, 1865.

LET THE FUN BEGIN…

The next step is to enlarge your document so you can see the errors in a larger format.

While in the Paint program, click on the Magnifier, (looks like a magnifying glass) and now your mouse icon looks like a magnifying glass with a box around it.

Go to the area that needs repair and click on the picture. The picture got large and you can see every bit and byte of color or black and white squares called pixels.

If this is your first time at looking at a picture up close, I bet you didn't know the computer image generated by a computer is made up of little squares…not circles.

Once you have found the area that needs repair, determine what type of repair it needs.

[1] Removal…this would be unwanted characters, smudges, dots and any debris that should not be there.
[2] Excess or overstated lines…this would be a number or letter that have additional dots on it enlarging it in excess of the other characters.
[3] Red Eye in faces…this occurs when the camera picks up additional flash and converts the eyes to a red glow.

TOOLS…

In the repair process there are two objects you will use a great deal in the Paint program.

Notice in the left toolbar, there is an eraser and a paintbrush.

The eraser, does what it's suppose to do…it erases stuff. The paintbrush puts colored squares or pixels on the document.

If your document needs unwanted characters removed then click on the eraser.

Notice a small rectangular toolbox under the other toolbox, which now displays little boxes.

These boxes range in size from small to a little bigger to a little bigger until the largest.

Click on each of those boxes and move the mouse cursor onto your picture. Notice the size of the box. As you decrease in size…the cursor decreases in size.

This lets you erase large sections or small one-square pixel sections.

Place the cursor on the picture and hold down the left button on the mouse.

If you don't move the mouse, when you release the left button, you will notice a square is gone.

If you move the mouse with the left button down, you will notice a whole row of squares are gone!

If you accidentally erase something you didn't want to erase, click on the Undo button under the Edit tab, next to the File tab in the upper left hand corner.

Keep clicking Undo and it will remove each and every erasure you made.

When you erase something…by letting the left button up on the mouse, you will "set" that erasure as permanent…unless you do the Undo button.

Keep erasing all that you wish to remove.

If you have debris in small-to-get places, then enlarge the picture (using the magnifying glass) and it will make your erasure icon smaller allowing you to erase something as small as one pixel of the picture.

After you have made several erasures, save your document under a "new" name often so you can protect your progress.

Because you are using a "newly" created document not the original picture, the original picture is safe and unchanged. Only the new document has been changed.

Fixing Mistakes…

Sometimes in our zeal to erase as fast as we can, we cross over too far and erase a letter or word and need to fix it.

By clicking undo, the Paint program will take us to the last time we saved the picture, but if it is a minor infraction, like erasing a portion of a letter, then we can replace those dots.

Click on the Paintbrush icon under the magnifying glass.

Now the small rectangular box under the left toolbar has changes to several size dots, squares and lines.

This part of the program draws dots, squares or lines on the picture.

Whereas, the eraser removed unwanted characters, the Paintbrush puts them on the picture.

First determine which one of the characters represents the repair tool to fit your problem.

1. Smallest circle dot
2. Middle circle dot.
3. Large circle dot.

4. Smallest square dot.
5. Middle square dot
6. Large square dot

7. Smallest inward slant line
8. Middle inward slant line
9. Large inward slant line

10. Smallest outward slant line
11. Middle outward line
12. Large outward line

Choose the one that fits your purposes.

Remember to enlarge the picture by changing the magnifying glass size. The larger the picture gets…the easier it is to fix small hard-to-get at places.

Once you have repaired you document, then it should look like the following on the next page.

Pretty amazing huh!!! It took several hours to complete but was well worth it. Now, if someone wants to print or download the document, then they will get a clean, sharp print or download.

Notice the lines, dots and smudges are gone as well as the debris on the border and any other unwanted characters.

Now, this picture is _almost ready_ for posting on the Internet.

If your repair process includes photographs of people then I have included before and after examples so you can see how capable the Paint program really is.

Repairing damage to photos requires a little more than erasing and painting.

This comes under the heading of major alterations.

I shall cover this in the next section.

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William Johnson died Feb.26th, 1874. Aged 71 yrs.

Benjamin Johnson died Oct 21st, 1880 Aged 39 yrs & 10 months.

Wilson Johnson died Oct 12th, 1882. Aged 74.

Francis Leroy Johnson died in April 1888 Age 46 yrs.

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Elizabeth and Clara (BARTON) circa 1909-1910

This is a picture of sisters; Elizabeth and Clara (**BARTON**) circa 1909-1910.

Notice the original picture on the left. Torn corner, brown burned spot, writing above their heads, crease lines and generally in poor condition.

You can handle a picture like this in two ways; crop and enlarge or repair in Paint.

After cropping, which cuts out all the surrounding unwanted area, and by enlarging the picture; we can see they are looking at a scrapbook.

But, if you really want to make a difference then repairing the picture would be the best procedure.

Also, notice the caption below the picture. This was achieved with the HiJaak PhoTags Program, which can be purchased at the following location for $6.79.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001647OL2/ref=pd_lpo_k2_dp_sr_3/175-6234776-2585908?pf_rd_m=ATVPDKIKX0DER&pf_rd_s=lpo-top-stripe-1&pf_rd_r=1B3E8CNERNQDM2ABB9HV&pf_rd_t=201&pf_rd_p=486539851&pf_rd_i=B000H4L9PE

You can crop anything and enlarge each face and paste it on their file at ancestry.com or on your own books and reports.

When someone shares with me a family photo of their ancestors, I try to fix and enhance the photo with individual pictures for each person in that photo and add captions and labels for identification purposes.

I can't tell you the hundreds of pictures I have inherited…with no dates, names or places and how frustrating not knowing if they are some of my "lost" relatives!

But, let's try to fix the ones we do know about and can identify.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS…

After opening Paint, open the picture you want to alter. Save this picture under a "new" name.

If you have a mark on the picture you want to remove, you can't erase it; otherwise you will need to repair it.

On the left hand toolbar is a dotted rectangular box, first one on the top right going down…click on that.

When you move your cursor onto the picture do you notice a cross with a tiny circle in it?

Hold the left button and move it to the right…notice a dotted square enlarges as you go down from where you began. Let up on the left button.

Now the area is highlighted. Let's say there is a smudge on that part of the picture. You don't want to highlight the smudge; you want to highlight the clean area around the smudge.

When you have made a square next to the damaged smudge spot, then right click your mouse and click copy. Then right click your mouse and click paste.

Notice an exact copy of your square, you highlighted, is now located in the upper left hand corner of the picture. Even the color has been copied to match the area.

Put your cursor on the copy and hold down the left button and drag it to where it covers up your smudge spot. Release the left button. That's all there is to it!!!

Notice an exact undamaged copy of the area next to the damaged portion of your picture has now replaced the damaged portion without disturbing the surrounding pixels and matches the colors of the original.

If your copy exceeds the area needing replacement, then you made your copy too big. Go to Edit and Undo and try again.

This process is simplified and works. The more you work with Paint…and it's free, the better you will get at it.

OTHER PROGRAMS…

There are other programs on the market basically does the same thing, but in a more sophisticated style and complicated process and with a chunky price tag.

I have worked with them all, but found Paint can fix most of the problems I run across and can do the job quickly.

You can even save the picture in a different format when you have finished. This means, if you were using a bitmap picture, you can save it as a .jpeg…less compression, less space on your computer.

Experiment with Paint and practice on your documents and I am sure you can fix those pictures and documents you would have paid others a great deal of money to do.

ALMOST FINISHED…

Remember when I said after you have repaired your picture you were almost finished?

After you are satisfied with the completed product, it is time to go to HiJaak PhoTags or a similar program that will put captions **OUTSIDE** the picture.

Paint will put words **ON** the pictures but you want something that doesn't take the viewer away from enjoying the picture with distractions.

After you have labeled the picture as to participants, date and location, if known, then you are ready to post on the Internet.

Once posted, as long as ancestry.com stays in business and America continues to flourish, your handiwork will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Remember the original photo from above; this is what it looks like when finished using Paint.

Notice the corners and the creases in the original picture. Notice the writing above the girl's head. See the lines on their feet and the crease next to Elizabeth's arm? The burnt spot is gone and the corners have been reconstructed all using the Paint program.

This new picture is probably closer to what the actual scene looked like back in 1910.

Have fun and it gets easier with practice…and this is how you clean up dirty pictures.

Captions Vital to the Photos…

After you have purchased **HiJaak PhoTags** software you are ready to work with captions. The reason I suggest using this program is the ease of use I have found using the software.

Open the program and ignore the Welcome window and in the upper left hand corner is the label named File…click on File and click on the Open tab.

Find the photo you want to use in the folder on your computer. Be mindful all the photos in that folder will be loaded into the left hand column in your HiJaak program.

Click on the photo you want and it will appear enlarged in the center of the work area. Notice in the right hand lower corner there is a faint red date. We do not want this in our photo so go to the tab at the bottom called Date and click and check the box called ☐ Hide Date.

Now click on the tab called Caption 1, you see your cursor is now ready for you to type the words for your caption. As you write your caption you can adjust the font, size, bold, position and other various enhancements.

On the far right of the screen in the lower right is a section called Caption 1 Position: this will move your caption from inside the picture to ☐ Outside Picture.

The following is how I produce captions in the following order.

[1] Open the HiJaak program
[2] Close the Welcome window
[3] Go to File and Open and locate my picture
[4] Remove the red date
[5] Type my caption
[6] Click the Outside the picture box
[7] Adjust my font style
[8] Adjust my font size
[9] Bold my caption
[10] Go to File and Save As giving my new picture a new name

Caption Hints…

Cropping…If your photo needs cropping or resizing, go to the icon showing a picture and a pencil called Edit Photo. Click and you will see various adjustments the program will allow to alter your photo.

Each enhancement has an explanation of its capabilities. To exit that portion of the program, click on the same Edit Photo icon button.

Naming your photo…If your photo is a picture of a person I write the caption as follows, full name of the person, if it is a woman I always include her birth surname as such …

JoAnn Martha (**WILSON**) Jones followed by their birth and death date as such 1869-1934

Followed by the approximate date of the photo, *i.e.*, circa 1887

Then a short statement concerning the location of the photo, followed by the statement…

posted by nephew Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

This process identifies the character in the picture, their years, the approximate date of the picture, the location of the picture if known and you as the author of this caption.

Using this process gives you credit for your hard work.

After you have "cleaned up" your picture and captioned it, it is ready for release on the Internet at various locations of your choosing.

Time consuming? Yes, tedious? Yes, frustrating? Can be at times, but very rewarding because what you are doing is something only professionals learn how to do with expensive programs.

As family history researchers, we don't have the time to sit and consume our energy or money repairing and captioning photos.

We need a simple process, that will allow us to get the job done quickly and inexpensively and I feel this does the trick.

Practice, practice and did I mention practice? After awhile with experience you will impress your fellow researchers and will be doing your descendants a great service.

Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.
18 January 2012
Revised 12 January 2015

Pedigree Chart for Floyd Thomas "Tom" Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I. by Floyd Thomas Pratt F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

1 Floyd T Pratt F. H. C., M. A. G. I.
b. 3 January 1948
p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~
m. 14 August 1972
p. Tyler Place United Presbyterian Ch~
d.
p.
sp. Bonnie Kathleen Bach

2 Floyd Theodore "Ted" Pratt
b. 6 January 1927
p. near Bourbon, Boone Twp, Crawford~
m. 1 March 1947
p. Saint Clair, Central Twp, Franklin, M~
d.
p.

3 Delores "Doe" Virginia Brown
b. 31 October 1925
p. City Hospital #1, 1515 Lafayette Av~
d. 1 March 1981
p. Queen of Angels Hospital, 2301 Bel~

4 Columbus B A Pratt
b. 1 December 1893
p. Hamilton Hollow, Johnson ~
m. 12 April 1919
p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~
d. 27 July 1947
p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~

5 Rue Flavilla Johnson
b. 19 March 1894
p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~
d. 26 June 1983
p. Briarwood Manor Nursing ~

6 Peter Conley Brown
b. 12 January 1893
p. Sharon, Weakley, Tennes~
m. 16 March 1924
p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~
d. 3 December 1972
p. Halls, District #8, Lauderdal~

7 Olga Elmiria O'Daniel
b. 11 March 1907
p. Island 21, Dyer, Tennessee~
d. 7 October 1993
p. Los Angeles, Los Angeles~

8 Henry Winslow "Win" Pratt
b. 6 September 1869
p. near Osage Post Office, J~
m. 29 January 1893
p. Vilander, Liberty Twp, Craw~
d. 24 March 1914
p. near Crow's Creek, Boone~

9 Mary L M Missé Missey
b. 20 February 1874
p. Johnson Twp, Washington~
d. 17 April 1938
p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~

10 Judge J M Johnson Sr.
b. 29 September 1854
p. Moselle, Central Twp, Frank~
m. 14 May 1884
p. Liberty Twp, Crawford, Mis~
d. 21 May 1941
p. Bourbon, Boone Twp, Craw~

11 Mary Jane T Barton
b. 18 January 1861
p. near Pine Mountain Post Of~
d. 10 June 1913
p. Walnut Street, Bourbon Vil~

12 John A. Brown
b. May 1844
p. Perry, Tennessee, United ~
m. 18 November 1891
p. Dresden, Weakley, Tenne~
d. 31 July 1928
p. Nashville, Hermitage, Davi~

13 Obedience "Bedie" Lackey
b. 6 February 1871
p. near District 8 Post Office, ~
d. 14 January 1924
p. Western State Hospital, Bol~

14 James Leonidas O'Daniel
b. 15 December 1869
p. near Rutherford Post Offic~
m. 22 May 1897
p. Dyer, Tennessee, United S~
d. 8 March 1921
p. Baird-Dulaney Hospital, Dy~

15 Daisy Dean Bell
b. 7 September 1881
p. District #19, Walnut Grove~
d. 14 May 1920
p. Jackson Crossing, Civil Dist~

16 Alexander "Alex" R. Pratt
b. March 1831
d. 1912

17 Mary Kimberlin
b. 1835
d. 1876-1880

18 François C Missé Missey
b. 5 July 1845
d. 26 April 1916

19 Cynthia N. Talbot
b. 3 April 1848
d. 28 March 1896

20 Martin Johnson
b. 22 March 1805
d. 27 September 1859

21 Comfort Osborn
b. 10 June 1814
d. 26 April 1877

22 William "Billy" Barton
b. 20 November 1831
d. 7 January 1922

23 Harriet King
b. 23 July 1834
d. 3 February 1920

24 Joseph Brown Jr.
b. 1827
d.

25 Catherine
b. 1825
d.

26 William Stevenson Lackey
b. 20 October 1822
d. 7 July 1893

27 Nancy Basket Moseley
b. 11 October 1827
d. 20 September 1875

28 Stephen C. O'Daniel
b. 5 December 1812
d. 1881

29 Elizabeth Ellen Gordon
b. 1840
d. 1872

30 John Franklin "Frank" Bell
b. 1 July 1850
d. 1892-1893

31 Hettie M. Jackson
b. 16 December 1861
d. 19 April 1902

32 Henry Pratt
b. 1800-1803

33 Nancy Carter
b. 1802-1803

34 Rinnehart E. Kimberlin
b. 1805

35 Frances Jane Peters
b. 1804

36 Jean B Missé Missey
b. 28 May 1821

37 Marie Françoise Piquette
b. 4 January 1826

38 Benjamin "Ben" Talbott
b. 15 June 1811

39 Laura Farris
b. 12 February 1818

40 Benjamin Johnson
b. 31 March 1775

41 Amelia
b. 23 November 1769

42 William Osborn
b. 4 July 1777

43 Rebecca Richmond
b. 1784

44 John Milton Barton
b. 1799

45 Sophia Keitle
b. 1807

46 Rev. Jonathan King
b. 20 December 1800

47 Mary Holt
b. 29 April 1808

48 Joseph Brown Sr.
b. 1785

49 Lydia Hammonds
b. 1792

50
b.

51
b.

52 Enos Lackey
b. 1797

53 Luvina Beard
b. 1804

54
b.

55
b.

56 Alexander O'Daniel Sr.
b. Abt 1749

57 Annie Keathley
b. 18 July 1782

58 John Gordon
b. 1813

59 Nancy
b. 1820

60
b.

61
b.

62 Alexander Jackson
b. 1840

63 Mariah "Mary" Ledbetter
b. 1840

A Little Something About Your Author............

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.

At the age of 19, Tom Pratt embarked on a career in law enforcement. This experience gave him training in detective and investigative skills. Little did Mr. Pratt know, how useful these skills would be in the field of genealogy.

Tom Pratt started his family research career in 1975 after becoming a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. His first calling as a new member was to serve in the newly created genealogical department or known today as the Family History Center in the Springfield, Missouri ward. This two-year calling gave Mr. Pratt a tremendous amount of experience helping others to research their families.

In fact, he felt family research came easy and required little effort on his part. In reality, years of reading and studying increased his expertise and he made it look easy to others.

Over the course of several years, Mr. Pratt was asked by his church to instruct several family history courses. This experience established a deep profound love for family and ancestors.

It was not uncommon for Mr. Pratt to spend 4 to 8 hours a day researching and compiling family histories in addition to his duties, as an entrepreneur in the insurance business.

The first major achievement for Mr. Pratt was a breakthrough on his Pratt family back to the early 1800's. Not satisfied with just the direct line research, Mr. Pratt branched out to research all connected lines and allied families.

This dedication led to 42,000 individuals and achieved expert status for Mr. Pratt on the families of middle and eastern Missouri, eastern and western Tennessee and central North Carolina.

Concerning Mr. Pratt's style of research, he is a strong supporter of the "hands on" approach. When he took family vacations, they usually went to libraries, cemeteries, courthouses, National Archive centers, and visited family members in various states. He attended multi-state family reunions and obtained his material from the actual sources when possible.

A Little Something About Your Author............

Being a researcher of the highest degree, in 1991, Mr. Pratt formed the Pratt Publications Company and offered to the public, a series of books titled, The Pratt Progenitor Papers. This series of volumes are a collection of legal documents, stories, pictures and historical presentations concerning the families of Missouri, Tennessee and North Carolina.

The first three Volumes were released to the public in 1991 and were issued to 18 different libraries including the Library of Congress and the St. Louis Public Library. The next 7 volumes were published with at total of 43 volumes scheduled for publication.

In 1996, Mr. Pratt formed the Genealogical Institute to further the education of serious researchers.

The Genealogical Institute offers a series of educational materials to teach and instruct the uninitiated in the procedures of family history research. These courses offer "a hands on" curriculum designed to instruct in investigative, deductive reasoning and logical procedures for tracking your family history.

Beginners and experienced researchers have found a treasure chest of knowledge when undertaking these courses. Mr. Pratt has taken the hobby of genealogy and has enhanced it into a science. Heavy on instructions concerning documentation, research procedures, alternative sources and common public records, this course is a valuable tool for the researcher. One of Mr. Pratt's favorite sections of the course is teaching researchers "how to stop" researching and compile their information for publication.

Upon completion of the educational courses from the Genealogical Institute, the graduate is awarded the Master Accreditation of the Genealogical Institute. (M.A.G.I.)

This designation is equivalent to a Doctorate Degree and signifies the recipient has been trained and demonstrated superior research techniques.

Mr. Pratt's ability in family history research has amazed many educated researchers. When Mr. Pratt is asked for help concerning their "brick wall" in their family research, his quick wit and logical mind rapid fires instructions and procedures so fast they cannot write the material quickly enough. Little do they realize this knowledge has been acquired over 30 years of experience and research.

In June of 2000, Mr. Pratt undertook a new and unprecedented task.

Outside of Washington, Franklin County, Missouri is an old cemetery called the Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery. This cemetery has many pioneer heroes and ancestors of various descendants from that region. Some of the inhabitants were born in the 1750's and traveled west to Missouri after the 1803 Louisiana Purchase.

A Little Something About Your Author............

Mr. Pratt took down all the information off the headstones, including every person in the cemetery and researched each individual related or not. 1000 man-hours and two years later, he published the book "<u>Johnson-Caldwell Cemetery of Franklin County, Missouri</u>"© 2001.

Obtaining newspapers, legal documents, personal interviews with ancestors and researching various sources for any and all information concerning the history of the cemetery and the inhabitants produced this master text. What makes this book stand out among the rest is basic content and structure.

First, it is the only book to cover the known and reported inhabitants of an entire cemetery.

Second, this book reports on each inhabitant, their birth and activities throughout their life until their death, including their ancestors, spouses and children.

Third, even the index is unique, listing the individual and their father's name if known. This is extremely helpful when several individuals have the same given name.

Upon examination, professional researchers have hailed this body of work as a masterpiece and a standard in which all future research of cemeteries should be based. In their opinion, no one has ever produced a body of work about a cemetery as unique and professional as this publication.

Currently, Mr. Pratt is working on a series of books from the <u>Pratt Archive Collections</u>, which is a series of biographical publications concerning a progenitor and a generation of descendants. This collection is a "cradle to grave" report, which covers the subject's ancestry, birth, marriage, children, and geographical domiciles as well as the political environment during the subject's lifetime.

In addition, Mr. Pratt is working on additional volumes of the <u>Pratt Progenitor Papers</u> and several books on public records.

With all these accomplishments, Mr. Pratt humbly refers to himself as a Genealogical Anthropologist…resurrecting progenitors.

We in the genealogical world are deeply grateful to be associates of a man of Mr. Pratt's caliber. Through his dedication to helping the novice as well as the professional researcher, future generations will benefit by his advances in the genealogical field.

In addition, we are thankful for the inspiration that sparks men like Mr. Pratt to magnify their love for people and history. We feel, with a lifetime dedicated to the genealogical pursuit of truth and knowledge, Mr. Pratt's accumulative body of work, will stand as a quintessential manifestation of this divine love.

Lewton Cole, Chairman
*G*enealogical *I*nstitute

GENEALOGY ETIQUETTE

1. Do not give copies or reproduce the information you received from the compiler or author without written permission.

2. In your research efforts if you are able to advance the research, then reciprocate by sharing your research information with the compiler.

3. Use the information you receive as a starting point for your research of your families.

4. If you decide to use information you have received, in a book, document or research material, be sure to acknowledge the author or compiler of that material.

5. All inquiries by third parties for a copy of the material should be forwarded to the original compiler or author.

6. Do not loan or share your information, family heirlooms, special documents, one of a kind, pictures, or irreplaceable materials to non-professional researches or family members. These types of materials seen to disappear or become damaged.

7. Make copies of important documents or materials when at libraries and be sure to write the name of the book, source, letter or film with the author's name and page number and year of publication.

8. Genealogy work that is not documented is of little value. Remember, you are leaving a trail for those who follow. If future researchers have to verify your work, then of what value is your work?

9. Collect family stories from those relatives who are still alive. This is a short cut to your past and they hold a world of knowledge about your family.

10. Do not try to finance all your research alone. Ask for financial assistance from interested family members.

Remember, the family history information that is so easily exchanged today by computer was acquired over years and years of on-site research. While many were engaged in raising families, working for income, and surviving, genealogist researchers did these things *AND* spent their free time in pursuit of the truth about their ancestors. This pursuit required great sacrifice of time, effort and money. Many researchers went to the actual locations to view the marriage, deed, death and birth records including visiting the cemeteries across the United States and foreign countries. This is why it is important to follow the above guidelines; by doing so, you give respect to their work and honor to their memory. Thank You.

Floyd Thomas Pratt, F.H.C., M.A.G.I.